

**DELABOLE WIND FARM
DELI FARM, DELABOLE
CORNWALL**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

**GOOD ENERGY DELABOLE WINDFARM
LTD**


CA PROJECT: 3110
CA REPORT: 10199

DECEMBER 2010

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CORNWALL

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CA PROJECT: 3110
CA REPORT: 10199

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date	10 December 2010
issue	01

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:10,000)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Delabole Wind Farm
Location: Deli Farm, Delabole, Cornwall
NGR: centred at NGR: SX 0871 8519
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 26 April–14 June 2010
Planning Reference: 2008/00638
Location of Archive: Royal Cornwall Museum
Accession Number: TRURI: 2010.22
Site Code: DBF10

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of replacement wind turbines at Delabole Wind Farm, Deli Farm, Delabole, Cornwall.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between April and June 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Good Energy Delabole Windfarm Ltd at Deli Farm, Delabole, Cornwall (centred on NGR: SX 0871 8519; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by Cornwall Council (CC). This was for the erection of four wind turbines and a sub-station building with associated access tracks in connection with the re-powering of the existing wind farm and the decommissioning of the existing wind turbines (Planning ref: 2008/00638). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Recording* (CC 2009) prepared by Philip Markham, Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer (HEPAO), CC, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009) and approved by Mr Markham. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). The work was monitored by Mr Markham.

The site

- 1.3 The site lies around 1km to the north-east of the village of Delabole and the Old Delabole Quarry, a former slate quarry. The site is bordered to the south by the now dismantled late 19th-century North Cornwall Railway. To the east it is bordered by the earthworks of a prehistoric enclosure and a trackway leading north past the visitor centre. To the north it is bordered by the visitor centre itself and the B3314 leading to Delabole village. Its western boundary comprises enclosed agricultural fields. (Fig. 2) The site lies at approximately 250m AOD and slopes fairly gently to around 220m AOD to the south. (Dulas 2007)
- 1.4 The site occupies approximately 63ha and is primarily used for pasture.

- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Devonian Tredorn Slate Formation of the Delabole Member of the Tredorn Slate Formation (BGS 1994). There are no mapped Quaternary drift deposits within the site, although an area of alluvium lies immediately to the west of the site deposited by a spring at Little Barton Farm (Dulas 2007).

Archaeological background

- 1.6 A desk based assessment has been produced detailing the archaeological potential of the site (CA 2007) and is summarized below.

Iron Age

- 1.7 There are no known Iron Age features or finds located within the site. The site boundary lies immediately adjacent to, and is partially defined by as a prehistoric 'Round' settlement enclosure, known locally as Trethern Round. It has not been subject to archaeological investigation but is likely to be of Iron Age date. A further enclosure is recorded as a cropmark by the National Mapping Programme around 500m to the south-west of the site. The form of the enclosure suggests it may represent a settlement of similar date (CA 2007, 6).
- 1.8 The pattern of prehistoric rounds in Cornwall is closely related to the distribution of medieval farmsteads (Johnson 1998, 3). The fact that many medieval farms are located near or on prehistoric enclosures has suggested a certain continuity in settlement patterns in the county. Such a scenario is borne out in the study area, as Trethern Round lies 150m west of Trethern Farm (which has medieval origins; see Section 1.8 below). It is therefore possible that there has been more or less continuous settlement in the area from prehistoric occupation of the round, shifting eastwards to the present Trethern Farm site in the early medieval or medieval period (CA 2007, 7).

Post-Roman and medieval

- 1.9 Settlement names with the prefix 'Tre' commonly have origins in the pre-Norman early medieval period (Johnson 1998, 3). Trethern Farm, situated 150m to the east of the site, is first recorded in documentary sources in 1206 but occupation of the

site may well have begun earlier. Indeed, there may have been a shift of settlement from the prehistoric round site to the current location of Trethern Farm in the post-Roman period. The existing farm buildings are of post-medieval and modern date (CA 2007, 7).

- 1.10 The settlement of Deli, 250m south of the site, is referred to as 'Deliau' in the Domesday Book of 1086, and may date from at least the early medieval period. Again, the current buildings are of post-medieval and modern date. A boundary of possible medieval origin is recorded as a cropmark around 350m north-east of the site. This is likely to be a former field enclosure boundary (CA 2007, 7).

Post-medieval and modern

- 1.11 There are no known post-medieval or modern features or finds located within the site. Delabole Quarry lies approximately 600m to the south-west of the site. Although there are records of slate extraction around Delabole from the mid 16th century, the main period of quarry extraction was in the 19th and earlier 20th centuries (Cahill Partnership and Cornwall Archaeological Unit 2002, 8-12) when the quarry was a major source of employment in the area. Until 1893 the slate was transported by road to the ports and the nearest railway line at Bodmin Road. Following this date the North Cornwall Railway opened and the quarry became one of the main users of the line (*ibid*).
- 1.12 Two small post-medieval quarries are recorded to the east of the site.

Methodology

- 1.13 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2009). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks. All excavations were undertaken by contractors using mechanical excavators equipped with toothless buckets or by hand where there were known live services.
- 1.14 Written, graphic and photographic records of the intrusive groundworks were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007). A number of modern finds were recovered but due to their modern date they were not retained.

- 1.15 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. This will be deposited with Royal Cornwall Museum under accession number TRURI: 2010.22. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate consisting of mid grey slate was revealed throughout the site at an average depth of 0.25m below present ground level. This was often sealed by or contained large pockets of yellow and grey clay. A subsoil of firm orangey-brown clay containing broken slate was observed in trenches 12, 13 and 15 on the west of the site. Both subsoil and natural was sealed by mid-orangey grey brown clay silt topsoil containing broken slate most likely churned up by modern ploughing evidenced by a number of plough scars. In several trenches, modern trackways constructed of crushed stone associated with the original wind farm were observed. These had been laid on the upper surface of the topsoil. In trenches 2, 13 and 17, approximately 20m, 30m and 55m long sections respectively of modern Cornish hedgebanks were encountered. These stood 3m high by 4m wide and consisted of friable reddish brown clay silt retained by large irregular shaped granite fragments.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered. The modern material consisted of litter, nails, metal fragments from ploughs and broken glass. Due to their modern date they were discarded on site.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above) the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The presence of *in situ* subsoil in the south-western part of the site suggests that there has not been modern truncation in these areas and that archaeology was never present. In the remainder of the site, the absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that any structural remains associated with adjacent archaeological sites do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the

development. However, the truncation and removal of features by modern agricultural activity can not be ruled out.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Stuart Joyce and Andrew Donald. The report was written by Andrew Donald. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Grey. The archive has been compiled by Andrew Donald, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1994 *Sheets 335 and 356 (1:50:000) Solid and Drift Edition*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *Delabole Wind Farm: Archaeological Assessment*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Delabole Wind farm, Deli Farm, Delabole, Cornwall. Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief*

Cahill Partnership and Cornwall Archaeology Unit 2002 *Cornwall Industrial Settlements Initiative: Delabole*

Dulas Ltd. 2007 *Archaeological assessment for Delabole Wind Farm*

Johnson, N. 1998 'Cornish Farms in Prehistoric Farmyards' in *British Archaeology* 31

Markham, P. 2009 *Brief for archaeological recording. Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service.*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
101	Deposit	Trackway				

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
201	Layer	Natural yellow and grey clay			0.25	
202	Layer	Natural slate				
203	Cut	Modern drainage		0.33	0.13	
204	Deposit	Orangey brown silt clay – fill of 203		0.33	0.13	
205	Deposit	Cornish hedgebank	30.0	4.0	3.0	

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
301	Layer	Natural				
302	Deposit	Pathway		1.45		

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil			0.17	

Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
501	Deposit	Trackway		3.5		

Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil			0.09	
601	Deposit	Trackway				

Trench 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Topsoil		1.05	0.1	
701	Deposit	Trackway		4.3	0.15	
702	Layer	Natural		4.3		

Trench 8

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Topsoil between tracks		1.0	0.1	
801	Deposit	Trackway		3.5		
802	Layer	Topsoil		3.0		

Trench 9

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
901	Layer	Natural yellow and grey clay			1.0	
902	Layer	Natural slate				

Trench 10

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Topsoil			0.13	
1001	Layer	Natural				

Trench 11

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1100	Layer	Topsoil		1.3	0.13	
1101	Deposit	Railway Embankment		3m		

Trench 12

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1200	Layer	Topsoil			0.1	
1201	Layer	Subsoil				

Trench 13

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1300	Layer	Topsoil			0.15	
1301	Layer	Subsoil			0.35	
1302	Layer	Natural				

Trench 14

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1400	Layer	Topsoil			0.27	
1401	Layer	Natural				

Trench 15

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1500	Layer	Topsoil			0.15	
1501	Layer	Subsoil			0.15	
1502	Layer	Natural				
1503	Deposit	Modern make-up - Orange brown silt clay			0.24	
1504	Deposit	Modern make-up - Slate and rubble/rubbish			0.6	
1505	Cut	Cutting for Railway				

Trench 16

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1600	Layer	Topsoil		3.5		

Trench 17

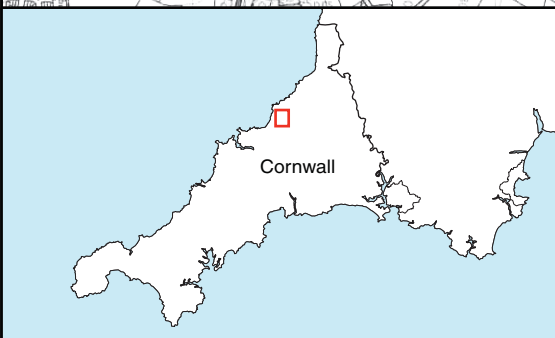
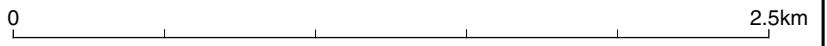
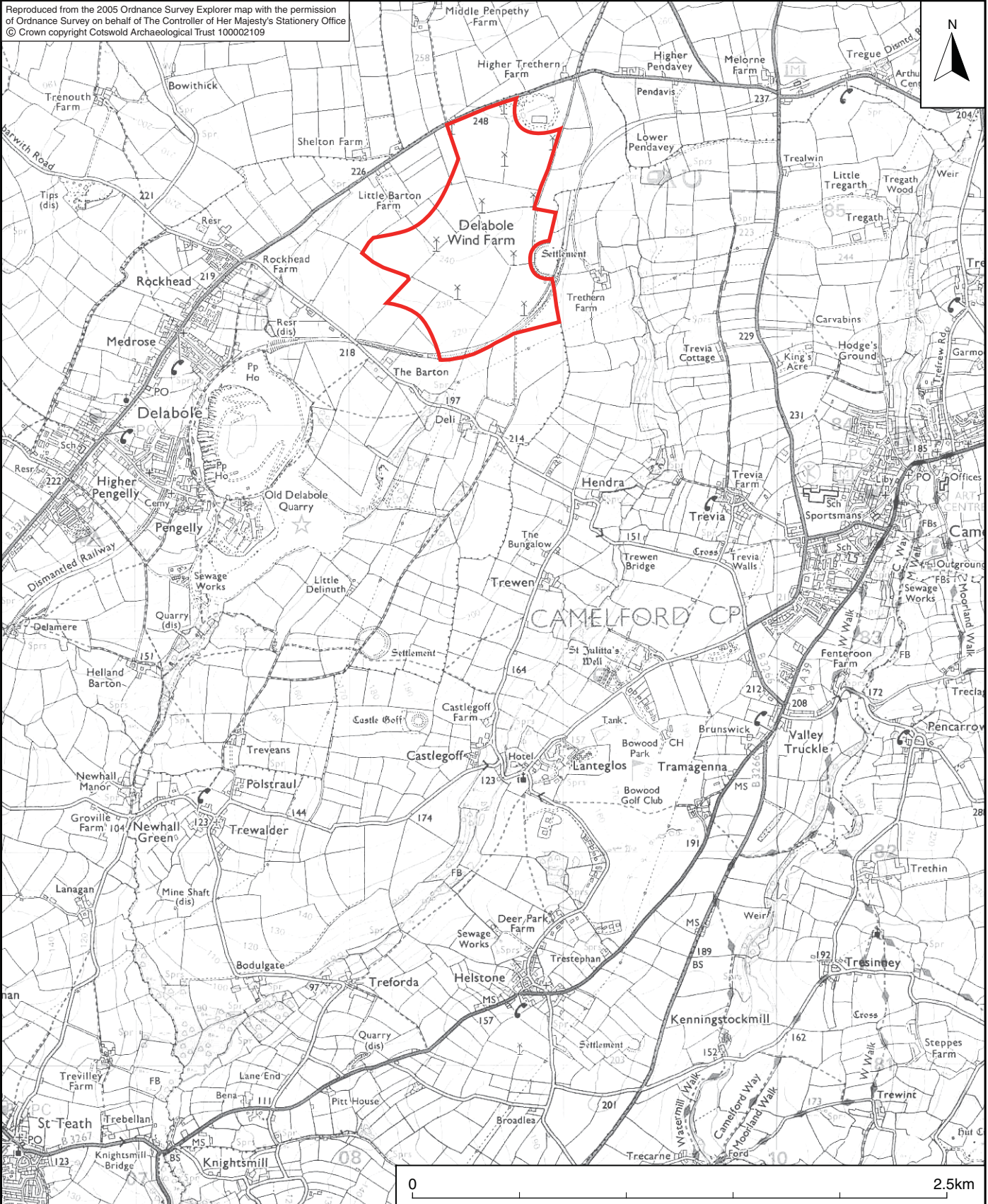
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1700	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
1701	Cut	Construction cut for modern trackway		3.0		
1702	Layer	Slate trackway			0.3	
1703	Cut	Cornish hedgebank	55.0	3.0		
1704	Layer	Cornish hedgebank formed with clay and broken slate				
1705	Cut	Modern service trench		0.3	0.7	
1706	Deposit	Light grey sand, primary fill of 1705		0.3	0.1	
1707	Deposit	Redeposited substrate backfill of 1705		0.3	0.6	
1708	Layer	Natural yellow and grey clay			0.9	
1709	Layer	Natural slate				


Trench 18

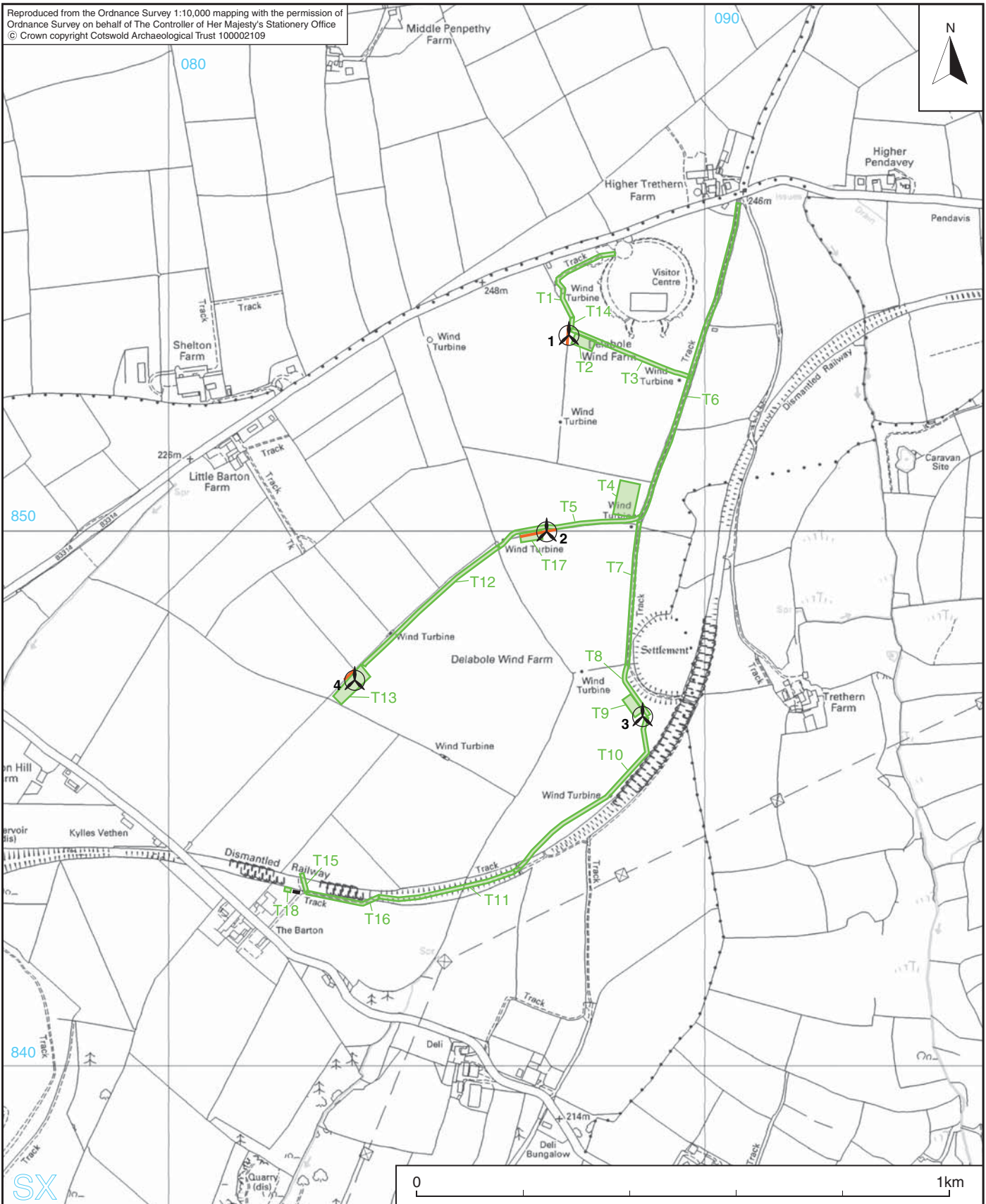
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1800	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
1801	Layer	Subsoil				

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM




PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Delabole Wind Farm, Deli Farm, Delabole, Cornwall	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of replacement wind turbines at Delabole Wind Farm, Deli Farm, Delabole, Cornwall. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	April – June 2010	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Archaeological Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	DBA CA 2007 Dulas Ltd 2007	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Deli Farm, Delabole, Cornwall	
Study area (M ² /ha)	63ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SX 0871 8519	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Cornwall Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Stuart Joyce/Andrew Donald	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	n/a	none
Paper	Royal Cornwall Museum, TRURI: 2010.22	Site records
Digital	Royal Cornwall Museum, TRURI: 2010.22	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>Delabole Windfarm, Deli Farm, Delabole, Cornwall: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 10199		



 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Delabole Wind Farm, Deli Farm Delabole, Cornwall			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
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LG	1:25,000@A4	3110	1



SX

-  turbine location
-  area of observed groundworks
-  areas of removed hedge banks



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Delabole Wind Farm, Deli Farm
 Delabole, Cornwall

FIGURE TITLE

The site, showing location of groundworks

DRAWN BY

LG

SCALE

1:10,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

3110

FIGURE NO.

2